

THE
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DEVOTED TO

Religion, Education, Literature,

AND GENERAL INFORMATION.

Edited by a Committee of Literary Friends.

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TO OUR PATRONS.

FIVE YEARS have now elapsed since the METROPOLITAN was undertaken, and for the last three years, we have had the pleasure of directing its editorial department. During this period, we have exerted our humble abilities to realize the object for which the work was designed. We have labored to render it not only a periodical devoted to the interest of Catholicity, but a periodical of general literature, upon a thorough Catholic basis.

We have from time to time directed attention to the importance of disseminating sound and healthful literature, the necessity of which was never more apparent than at present. A flood of the most fulsome and pernicious literature is daily poured upon the country:—a literature in which vice is veiled beneath an attractive style, and in which crime is encouraged by the heroes of the tale. The influences which these publications have produced upon the mind of youth, need not be told. Their doleful effects may be read in the history of the past; nay even in the daily experience of every observant individual. Almost unconsciously a whole community becomes familiarized with themes from which its members were once accustomed to turn with horror. The barrier which guards the morality of a people being thus broken down, the progress to crime, open and undisguised, becomes inevitably certain.

Such being the tendency of the vast amount of the current literature of the day, it becomes the duty of every one desirous of upholding the moral integrity of the community, and the most vital interests of religion, to aid in disseminating moral and healthful reading among the people, as one of the most effectual antidotes to the prevailing evil. How far the Metropolitan has been the medium of conveying to the people those lessons which tend to the development of morality and virtue, we leave to a discriminating public to determine. We have the satisfaction of knowing, that the work has merited the approbation of those whose judgment is worthy of the highest respect. To the friends and patrons of the work, to those who have so ably contributed to its pages, and to all who have in any manner aided in its circulation, we tender our most cordial thanks.

With this volume the united labors of the Editorial Committee will cease, and in future these labors will devolve on one of their number, who for the last three years has attended principally to the editorial duties. When we add that his undivided attention will be confined to the work, we feel that it is a sufficient guarantee, that the Magazine will merit a continuance of the confidence and liberal support it has heretofore enjoyed.

ED. COM.

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